

REMARKS

The Office Action of April 6, 2004 states that "the reply filed on December 22, 2003 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omissions or matters: There is no explanation in the remarks of the relevance to the newly presented claims 34-43 and support cited within the remarks given in the specification for the claims."

The following is a detailed description of the origin of these claims. Page 6 of the Office Action of July 17, 2003 states that "Claims 5, 9-17 and 21-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims". The claims now in question, namely claims 34-43, are selected rewritten claims taken from the cited claims 5, 9-17 and 21-33, the selected claims being rewritten as suggested by the Office Action "to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims".

To further clarify the relation of each rewritten claim to the claims from which it is formed, a CLAIM TABLE is presented below . The CLAIM TABLE shows the claim number of each rewritten claim and the independent and dependent claims from which that rewritten claim is formed.

CLAIM TABLE

Rewritten Claim	Independent Claim	Dependent Claim
35	1	13
36	1	16
37	1	17
38	3	5
39	3	27
40	3	30
41	3	31
42	18	21
43	19	21
44 (new)	18	22
45 (new)	19	22

Minor amendments have been made to claims 1, 18, 35-37, 42 and 43 to clarify and correct the claim language as requested in a recent communication from Applicant's German counsel. New claims 44 – 45 have been added.

In view of the above and the discussion presented in Applicant's Response of December 17, 2003, it is respectfully submitted that remaining claims 1- 5, 7, 9-19, 21-33, 35-45 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited. If the Examiner believes that prosecution of this patent application would be advanced by a verbal discussion, the Examiner is requested to give Applicant's attorney a telephone call at (512) 867-8502 (direct line).

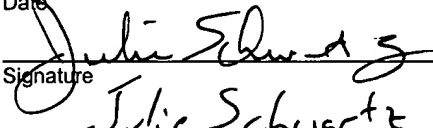
Respectfully submitted,



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